WHERE THE BEST COMES INTO VIEW

While the lure of outdoor activities attracts visitors to the area, the hometown charm of the local cities and festivals brings them back. Lined with historic significance and country charisma, the small downtowns in Lake County offer the peaceful getaway so many tourists seek.

Whether it is the sports-themed, heritage or just plain fun festivals your family searches for, it is all happening in Lake County. Come join the party. Lake County has its share of farmers markets, on the weekends and during the week as well. A stroll around one of these farmers markets will provide an array of produce, baked goods, plants and other items for sale.



For a complete listing of events, fairs, festivals and farmer's markets in Lake County, log on to www.lakecountyfl.com, keyword: calendar.

ONLINE CALENDER VIA SMARTPHONE

Step 1.

Download free tag reader with your smartphone at http://gettag.mobi





Step 3

View entire online calendar of events for Lake County, Fla.

AVAILABLE LAKE COUNTY TOURISM PUBLICATIONS & GUIDES

- · A Golfer's Paradise
- A Kid's Passport to Lake County CD-ROM
- · Antiques & Collectibles
- · Arts & Heritage
- · Bed & Breakfast Inns
- Bike Paths
- · Bird Watching Guide
- Boating & Waterways Guide
- Equestrian Adventures
- · Farmers' Markets

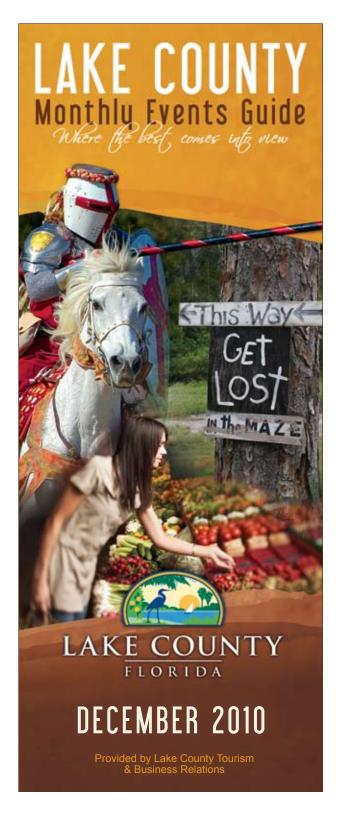
- Lake County Road Map
- Passport to Lake County CD-ROM
- Spas
- Thrifty Treasures
- U-Pick Farms
- Vacation Guide
- · VIP Vacation Card
- · Waterway Adventures
- Weddings & Celebrations

To request a free copy of any of these publications, call (800) 430-LAKE or log on to www.lakecountyfl.com.



TOURISM & BUSINESS RELATIONS 1-800-430-LAKE www.lakecountyfl.com

For more information and tips for planning a vacation, visit the Lake County Welcome Center, located at 20763 U.S. Highway 27 in Groveland, call (800) 430-LAKE or log on to www.lakecountyfl.com.



MONTHLY EVENTS GUIDE LISTINGS

What: G.I. Holiday Jukebox

When: Dec. 1-5, 9-12; Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m. Where: Bay Street Players at the Historic State Theatre

Cost: \$17-\$20

The salute to the Stage Door Canteen during WWII features four fictitious Hollywood stars entertaining "the boys" at the front with a string of 1940s hits and Christmas music. More info: (352) 357-7777; boxoffice@baystreetplayers.org; www.baystreetplayers.org.

What: Holiday Paddling Tours

When: Dec. 1-31, 10 a.m.
Where: Lake County Waterways

Cost: \$59

Come see the wildlife in a non-invasive way through a guided kayak trip. More info: (352) 589-7899; jenniferkayaks@yahoo.com; www.centralfloridakayaktours.com.

What: Santa's Christmas Tree Forest

When: Dec. 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-22, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Santa's Christmas Tree Forest

Cost: Free entry

Christmas trees, hay rides, kiddie tram rides, pony rides, maze and new this year, two 400 foot zip lines and a 200 foot zip line. More info: (352) 357-9863; lcsanta@aol.com

What: Miracle on 34th Street

When: Dec. 2-5, 9-12, 18-19, Thur. 7:30 p.m.; Fri. 8 p.m.;

Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.
Where: The IceHouse Theatre

Cost: \$10-\$20

Miracle on 34th Street is a charming Christmas classic for the family. More info: (352) 383-4616; jean@icehousetheatre.

com; www.icehousetheatre.com

What: Mount Dora Art League Winter Art Show

When: Dec. 3-5, Fri. 4-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;

Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Donnelly Park Building

Cost: free

The Mount Dora Art League's "Annual Winter Art Show" includes a reception and awards presentation on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. More info: (352) 735-0128

What: First Friday Street Fest

When: Dec. 3, 6 - 10 p.m. Where: downtown Eustis

Cost: free

Visit downtown Eustis for three stages filled with some of the area's best musical entertainment. Visitors can also check out the downtown shops, restaurants, art vendors, kid's area and plenty of food vendors with soft drinks, beer, wine and margaritas. More info: (352) 357-8555; events@eustismainstreet.org; www.eustismainstreet.org

What: 22nd Annual Light Up Clermont

What: Dec. 3-4, Fri. 6:45-9 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Historic downtown Clermont

Cost: free

The 22nd Annual Light Up Clermont ceremony will take place at Center Lake with music and performers on stage and a downtown celebration to follow on Montrose St. until 9 p.m. The festivities will continue on Saturday with a holiday craft show and food vendors, and a hometown holiday parade. More info: (352) 241-7352; sramdass@clermontfl.org; www.cityofclermontfl.com

What: Toxic Audio with Sounds of the Season

When: Dec. 4-5, Sat. 2 & 7:30 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.

Where: Lake-Sumter Community College,

Paul P. Williams Auditorium

Cost: \$20

Ring in the holiday season with Toxic Audio, the Grammynominated acapella quintet, as they combine amazing vocal harmonies with quirky humor for a spectacular show that will be sure to get the audience in the holiday spirit. More info: (352) 365-3506; osteene@lscc.edu; www.lscc. edu/foundation/performing arts/index.html

What: City of Tavares A Picture Perfect Christmas

When: Dec. 4, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Where: Wooton Park

Cost: free

Enjoy a parade on Ruby & Main Streets followed by festivities in Wooton Park. More info: (352) 742-6370; email vmadden@tavares.org; www.tavares.org

What: Saturday Bash

When: Dec. 4, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Where: Gator Harley-Davidson

Cost: free

Join Gator Harley-Davidson the first Saturday of every month for its Saturday Bash. The event includes entertainment, free food and free beer (limited quantities, please drink responsibly). More info: (352) 787-8050 ext. 21; peggy@gatorharley.com; www.gatorharley.com.

What: Howey Christmas Festival

When: Dec. 10-11, Fri. 5:30-9 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Where: Howey-in-the-Hills

Cost: free to public; \$10 for crafters

The Friday Night "Party in the Park" features a Christmas tree contest, karaoke, Christmas music and refreshments. Saturday activities include a craft show, car show, boat show, entertainment, food and Christmas parade with Santa and the Grinch. More info: (407) 702-5543; peggyernest@comcast.net; www.howey.org/specialevents

What: Rock & Roll with The New York Greasers

When: Dec. 11, 7 - 9 p.m.
Where: Florida Sunshine Opry

Cost: \$10

Come listen to some good ole' Rock & Roll with a performance by the New York Greasers. More info: (352) 357-4448; charlene@fsopry.com; www.fsopry.com

What: Nature Hike at PEAR Park

When: Dec. 11, 8 - 10 a.m. Where: PFAR Park

Cost: Free

Park rangers will identify birds, plants and other natural features of the park during this 2-mile hike. More info: (352) 253-4950; parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov;

www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks

What: Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra: GLORIOUS SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. Where: St. Patrick Catholic Church Cost: \$42 in advance; \$45 at door

Lake County's own professional symphony orchestra of 60 members will delight the audience with "The Nutcracker Suite" (participation of the Mt. Dora School of Ballet), "Twas the Night before Christmas" and other favorites. Don't miss the lights and sounds of Christmas in Mount Dora. More info: (352) 589-1500

What: 2nd Annual Melon Patch Family Christmas

When: Dec. 17, 18 & 19

Where: The Melon Patch Playhouse

Cost: \$15 adult; \$7 student

This very special presentation is a fund raiser. More Info: (352) 787-3013; me1on50@aol.com www.businessmasters. net/melonpatch

What: Christmas Show When: Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Where: Florida Sunshine Oprv

Cost: \$10

Come enjoy our Country Christmas show with Nick Zane. More info: (352) 357-4448; charlene@fsopry.com;

www.fsopry.com.